February 21, 2014

Tom Wheeler, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

We, the undersigned, urge you to continue Priority One E-rate funding support for our district and school websites (i.e., Web hosting).

We ask you to consider the following:

- School websites help support digital learning goals and make it easy for schools to quickly and effectively communicate with parents, students, and community members regarding key initiatives, academic progress, and emergencies.

- School websites cost only pennies per student per day, making them among the most cost-effective, yet highly adopted, communication services available.

- The elimination of E-rate funding support for Web hosting would cause serious hardship for many school districts that would be forced to cut already tight budgets. These cuts could result in staffing reductions and/or the scaling back of key web and digital learning initiatives.

We further believe it would be counterproductive to reduce or eliminate funding for school district website initiatives because doing so could inadvertently undermine important national goals related to digital learning and broadband adoption.

As one of the most important and cost-effective ways of communicating with parents, taxpayers, students, business leaders and other community members; we urge you to maintain funding support for Web hosting as an essential part of any E-rate modernization strategy.

Sincerely,

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cc.   **Committee on Energy and Commerce, U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Commerce, U. S. Senate**
FCC Commissioner, Hon. Jessica Rosenworcel
FCC Commissioner, Hon. Mignon Clyburn
FCC Commissioner, Hon. Ajit Pai
FCC Commissioner, Hon. Michael O'Reilly

Attachment: Comments

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Many of the teachers, administrators, staff and parents who signed this letter wanted also to include personal comments, and those are presented here.

"Our schools depend on any monies the state or federal government can give us to help our students succeed in this technology driven world. Please consider our students in your decision. Thank you.   Anita Sharp Maud/Macomb Library Media Specialist"

Anita Sue Sharp
Library Media Specialist, Maud Public Schools and Macomb Public Schools
Macomb, Oklahoma

"The use of the web is an essential part of education in a technological society."

James Keith Moon
Teacher, Bergman High School
Lead Hill, Arkansas

"This venue is about the only way of connecting residents in a rural area such as ours. It is a fast way to let parents know of changes in our school schedule because of extreme or threatening weather. It is also a great way to let parents know about things that effect their students, school, or their community."

Frances Marie Butler
Staff and District Member, Macomb Public Schools
Macomb, Oklamoma

"In our school district, we have an extremely low socioeconomic backgrounds. Without E-rate available to our district, many students will be without internet exposure. This will be a disadvantage to our students who plan to engage in higher learning. In the classroom, we have smart boards which enhance our instruction and connect us to the rest of the world. These will be useless without internet access. In this age, we need to embrace technology, not only have it available for districts with money. E-rate has been an asset to our school and we are truly thankful for this program. Please continue this support."

Allyson Horton
Teacher, Macomb Public Schools
Macomb, Oklahoma

"Our school runs at a minimal budget and staff and if it has to absorb costs for technology, essential for education today, we will either not be able to be up to date with the current internet age or we will lose essential staff and supplies. Almost every day I hear about bills and efforts to cut funding from the educational system. If all these efforts come to fruition we will not have an effective education system in this country and our future competitiveness in the world marketplace will be severely compromised. Please do not cut Priority E-rate funding. Our school needs your help. Thank you."

Elizabeth Louden
Teacher, Macomb Public Schools
Macomb, Oklahoma

"We have very few business in our rural area."

Wayne Howard
Teacher, Macomb Public Schools
Macomb, Oklahoma

"We are a small district and with out E-Rate it would be next to impossible to maintain our website. E-Rate funding is the major source of funding to provide technology to our students. Please continue E-Rate."

Steve Johnson
Superintendent, Miller Grove ISD
Cumby, TX

"It would increase my out of pocket expenses. In Oklahoma we have been cut/pinched to death. Any assistance to bring the best education to our students through the use of technology is vital. This would cause us to cut something else from our already lean budget."

Dwight Yokum
Director of Business Operations, Chickasha Public Schools
Chickasha, OK

"We are in an economically depressed area. Over seventy percent of our children qualify for free or deduced lunches. Many parents are unemployed and there seems to be no light at the end of the tunnel. Please reconsider because this is a vital resource."

Johnnie Lee Davis
8th Grade Science, Booneville
Booneville, Arkansas

"Website's are at this point the cheapest and most effective way for district's to advertise what a school offers to the public. And keep patron's of their district up to date on current affairs of the district they support. We save money in the long run by putting things on our website instead of sending out paper copies. Thanks"

Sundown Jacob
 Board Member, USD #247 Southeast
Cherokee, KS

"To Whom it may concern: Cutting funding for web hosting would be another vital staple removed from Western Plains School. This website has so many benefits that go unrecognized on a daily basis. For instance, we have students who have the opportunity to build necessary website construction and alteration skills, that they CANNOT receive anywhere else without paying an arm and a leg. Secondly, the patrons in this district can utilize this website for quick updates the school has made, or to see the outcome of any extra curricular activity, as well as their student(s)' grades. Western Plains currently has 149 students enrolled in K-12, and we are a consolidated district! A small school like ours is considered nothing to anybody remotely close to a big city, and this neglect has been and still is killing these small towns. If the funding is cut, we lose our website, no question. Our school can't afford to update any parts of the facilities, let alone pay for a website. Please do not take away this opportunity from the students! If you have any doubts about funding small town USA, at least consider this: America today is a country of the the government, by the government, for the government. The people are now just an expendable asset for voting. It seems that politics are decided by one phrase "right or left". I say to hell with right or left, how about right or wrong? Please do what's right and give the small schools a chance. Sincerely, Jonathan Flax"

Jonathan Flax
Parent/ School Board Member, USD 106 Western Plains
Ransom, Kansas

"What better, more cost effective system of communication is available?"

Patsy Lunsford Pace
Teacher, Booneville Schools
Booneville, Arkansas

"It seems the government has been doing nothing but take things away from our schools the past few years. Please don't take any more."

Robin Marie Stricklin
Teacher, USD#247
Cherokee, Kansas

"With the lack of funding to school districts, this is one more thing that School districts will have to pay out of their meager budgets. It will be very hard for districts to pay for web hosting. Please reconsider and do not eliminate Priority One E-rate funding support for a school district's website. Sometimes this is the only communication parents are able to use to keep up with their children's academic life."

Sara Pitts, Staff
Parent, Pawhuska Schools 57 I002
Pawhuska, OK

"As the district RN, we posted the required immunization schedule for the current school year and toward the end of that school year we post the new schedule. This gives the parents an opportunity to view the requirements for new students and for our returning students. Also the website for posting other important health information as needed."

Martha Keel
RN, Newton ISD
Newton, Texas

"Our school does not have enough money to purchase new computers for our classrooms. If funding is cut, our school will not be able to afford Web hosting either."

Misty Dawn Roland
Teacher, Calera Public School
Calera, OK

"Our web site allows for easy communication between school, faculty, and staff. Students who miss school for school related or personal reasons can use the website to see recorded lessons and lessons that have been posted to teacher web pages. This keeps students caught up which keeps their grades up. Our web page is a very important factor in the education of our kids and communicaiton with parents."

Kelly Reid
Teacher, Idalou ISD
Idalou, Texas

"With Oklahoma pushing for on-line testing, we would not be able to upgrade for the test. Without outside help, it will be impossible to continue our current state of readiness."

Emalee King
Federal Director, Drumright Public School
Drumright, OK

"The only reason we are able to have a hosted website is due to our e-Rate funding. If we were not able to use those funds, we would be responsible for $2,500 per year for licensing which is not in our budget. If this funding goes away, so does our website. We have much great information on our website along with links for parental involvement and teacher pages for students/parents to access classroom work."

Tiffany Edward
Website Administrator/Teacher, Fannindel ISD
Ladonia, TX

"This form of communication is a very fast and efficient way to let parents etc. know of any changes of schedules etc. and just get "news"."

Loretta Hair
Parent, USD 106 - Western Plains
Brownell, KS

"To whom it may concern: I have every student from age kindergarten through sixth grade come through my lab every week. Every student that comes to my lab uses the school website as the most important resource. I keep my website page up to date with age appropriate websites and programs that are both free and a few paid for by my school. These sites are not just an asset to my classroom, but I cannot count how many parents and also home school instructors have contacted me and thanked me for having these resources readily available for them to use. Parents have told me that they don't trust the internet, but they know that if their child is on my website using other sites I have approved then they don't have to worry about their students and they also know that the sites are educational and a good way for their child to learn. Taking away our website funding for our school would be very detrimental not just to our students, but our community, as well. We have cut in so many areas just to keep afloat, but this area is NOT one that we can afford to cut. We already have a hard time keeping up with the times with technology so cutting our website would be a massive step backward. Please don't hurt our students, and just as importantly, our community by choosing to take away something that is so very vital for our children's growth. Thank you so much for your consideration in this matter. Melissa Hammel"

Melissa Hammel
Teacher's Aide & Teacher of the Elementary Reading Computer Lab, Calera Elementary School
Calera, Oklahoma

"Our website has been a wonderful addition to our school. It allows better and more frequent parent-teacher communication and also keeps our community apprised of what's going on at school. It's definitely needed!"

Debra Hawkins
Teacher, Idalou ISD
Idalou, TX

"Schools, especially small rural schools, have lost so much funding already that it is extremely difficult to carry on in a professional manner. Now we are facing Web hosting defunding. Our school web page is such a convenient -and really needed- page for parents, teachers, and students to go to in order to see what's on the school's agenda, and get quickly and conveniently to regularly used sites. That site also presents our school in a professional manner. We more than likely will not be able to afford continuing that page if funds are discontinued.   Please continue funding for this important function in our school."

Judy A. Grace
Teacher, Boswell Public Schools
Boswell, Oklahoma

"Please keep funding for school websites as I use it to keep track of what is going on in the school system. It is a great way of keeping in touch with the teachers when my kids are having problems. Thanks"

David Ford, Jr.
Parent, Western Plains
Brownell, Kansas

"We use a lot of different free & paid websites, everyday, with our special education children!!! With the hardships felt due to continued budget cuts, this is a must for our students!!!"

Nana F. Sugg
Spec. Educ. Teacher, Math Teacher, & Parent; Fort Towson Public School
Ft. Towson, OK

"I help keep Silo's webpage updated. It is inexpensive and easy to get information quickly to the public. My children use online activities to supplement their education. My students use the page for online tests and research."

Tonya Par
Parent & Teacher, Silo ISD
Durant, Oklahoma

"With the dependency we have now and the greater demand in the future on computers (technology), it is essential we have no increased technology cost due to the lost of this funding source."

Gregg Grant
Superintendent, Danville
Danville, Arkansas

"Our district is already far behind other schools in funding and technology. Parental involvement is sorely lacking. Please do not remove this tool as we try to reach out for community support."

Paula Holliday
Teacher, Newton ISD
Newton, TX

"Several of our students live in a one-parent or guardian household, which makes it necessary for the parent or guardian to work their jobs required hours or whenever they can find work. Some individuals are placed in a hard situation in regard to either working that day or coming to the school to check up on their child's grades and daily assignments per class. The school is in a rural area of the state and travel to and from the school can also be an obstacle for some individuals. Most everyone has access to the internet, whether the service is in a neighbor's home, relative's home or available at the parent or guardian's place of employment (that can be utilized during their lunch or break times. Some students have difficulty in remembering the required assignments that a teacher assigned in class on a given day; therefore, for a parent or guardian, this problem in addition to trying to support the child can become an obstacle that can create undue stress on the child, the parent or guardian that is not healthy for anyone in the household. If it weren't for the availability of being able to check the school's web site to obtain the required daily assignments as well as to check up on the child's grades and progress, the stress that could result may lead to harm of the child; thus having Child Protective Services or law enforcement to have to intervene in the child's welfare, which could result in the entire household members being changed. I urge you to continue this vital tool that assists our most vulnerable households."

Paulette Houston
Staff, Colbert ISD
Colbert, Oklahoma

"The web page is critical for parents, teachers and students. We communicate school activities, lesson plans, grades and so much more through this website. In this day of technology it would be a step back to lose this financing to support the Website. Schools are already strapped for money for classroom supplies and field trips. If this is lost it would be a step backwards for the districts. Thank you...Phyllis Yawn"

Phyllis Yawn
Teacher, Booneville
Booneville, Arkansas

"Public Education can not afford to lose any more funding help the School District Website helps us communicate more effectively with the community, parents, staff and students."

Robbie Dorsey
Superintendent, Drumright Public School
Drumright, Oklahoma

"Colbert Public School is located in an area where the poverty level is high and we are considered low income.   We have numerous students on Free and Reduced Lunches. We have several students listed as Title X.   Our district is always in need of any financial help we can receive."

Stephanie McGowan
Teacher and Parent, Colbert
Colbert, OK

"Our website provides a vital means of communication with our parents and community. With cut in E-rate financing our school district may not have the money to pay for the website. This will cause a break in the link to our students and parents."

Douglas Sanders
Administrator-Middle School Principal, Danville Public School
Danville, Arkansas

"1. Information found on school websites often times open collaborative talks between teachers, administrators, and school districts.   2. Eliminating E-rate funding would make sharing state mandated material on a school web-site a financial hardship."

Randy Lea Isely
Administrtor, Danville School District
Danville, Arkansas

"Without e-rates our small school district would probably not be able to afford the website we currently use for our school district. We use this school web-site for communication with our teachers, parents, and community. Doris Apala, Pretty Water School"

Doris Apala
Technology Coordinator, Pretty Water Elementary School
Sapulpa, OK

"If E-Rate funds weren't available for our school to utilize, our school would be unable to afford to continue to utilize our current website provider. We would be forced to choose a much cheaper option in order to maintain our current budget. Our current website is a primary source of information and communication for our parents and community."

Kasandra Nelson
Administrator, Vici Public School
Vici, Oklahoma

"School districts have had dunding cut for several years. I work for a school district but I'm also a parent with students in that district. The website help me in the office because I can put notices of cancellations or information that is important on it for parents, in turn I get less calls in my office asking the same question over and over. As for being the parent is I'm away from the school I can pull up our website from my phone and have all the infoermation at my finger tips. Please keep the website on the Priority One E-rate funding schedule."

Deanne Kridea Murley
Parent/ Staff, Arapaho-Butler
Arapaho, Oklahoma

"With all the many, many funding issues and cuts facing schools today, there is a very great chance that schools will not have the funds to keep their websites going. This is such an essential and cost-effective manner of communicating with parents and the community so we must add our voice to others asking that funding continue. Thank you for listening and your consideration of this matter."

Kim Belcher
Dist. Tech. Coord., Fed. Programs Coord., District Test Coordinator; Harmony Public School
Atoka, OK

"Website hosting is an excellent way to communicate with parents, the community and to display the excellent things going on in the schools. A great emphasis is placed on educational institutions to communicate and e-rating is essential to being able to provide this great resource."

Robert Diepenbrock
Superintendent, USD 331 Kingman-Norwich Public Schools
Kingman, Kansas

"We need funding for our websites! It is a vital communcation tool for parents, teachers and students."

Leslie Raffelson
Technology Director, Plateau School District
Peetz, Colorado

"Fort Towson School website is updated with every change that takes place on campus. The website enables staff, parents, students, and people in the community to stay on the up and up with the school and supporting our students in various activities. I feel like without this source of communication some would become disengaged."

Kimberley Fowler
Staff/Parent, Fort Towson School
Fort Towson, Oklahoma

"The loss of E-Rate support for web hosting creates an additional cost burden for our district and detracts from direct classroom expenditures at a time with our district, like thousands across the nation, are facing difficult financial situations."

Adam Jenke
Administrator, Coldspring-Oakhurst ISD
Coldspring, TX

"Our agency uses the local school district's website in order to comply with Individual with Disabilities Education Act requiring schools to locate children in their area who may have disabilities. If Web hosting services are eliminated from Priority One E-rate funding support for a school district's website beginning in the 2015 E-Rate funding year, the local school district we are located in will no longer have a district website. In the past few years more and more funding cuts have been made to education both from our state and federal government. School districts are continually eliminating all extra expenses in order to continue providing quality education to their students. For a local school district to pay for a website when finances are so tight would be out of the question for most school districts at this time due to continued financial cuts. Communciating with parents and community members through the local school district's website has been very beneficial and convenient for all parties involved. It would be such a shame for this service to be terminated. I urge you to continue providing web hosting services through Priority One E-Rate funding. Respectfully, Diane Parris"

Diane Parris
Special Education Director, Seminole County Interlocal Coop. - Justice Public School
Wewoka, Oklahoma

"We are a small rural poor district in southeastern Oklahoma. My campus population is 95% free and reduced lunch, 25% special education, and 25% Native American. In order to communicate to our parents we continually update our web site. The funding for this web service is a must for us."

Phil Hall
High School Principal, Fort Towson Public Schools
Fort Towson, OK

"We feel we have a good web site and it is easy to use which allows us to inform the public of school information. Please consider funding this program."

Ron Laster
Tech Coordinator, Danville Public Schools
Danville, Arkansas

"We use our web site for notices and information on a daily basis for our parents and community to stay informed of what is going on. We are very pleased with our web site provider and have a good working relationship with them to provide us with a good product that teaches and staff use. Please consider funding this important part of our school. Thanks."

Harold L. Pyle
Web Master, Tech Staff, Danville Public Schools
Danville, Arkansas

"As a parent I go to Atoka Public School web site to check my childs grades and check schedules of different events. As a teacher I love it so my parents have access to information that the students may fail to get home. Almost everyone has access to the internet anymore whether it be by phone, home computer, office computer etc. It is a great tool."

Jharitta Gore
Teacher/ Parent, Atoka Public School
Atoka, OK

"A well maintained website is the most cost-effective means for a school to provide information to parents and other stake holders. If funding for Web hosting is eliminated, school districts will be forced to cut in other areas in order to continue to provide this valuable link for their parents. These cuts almost always come at the expense of much needed electives in the high school. As a small rural district this is simply not an areas in which we can withstand any further cuts. Please consider carefully the impact that your decision will have in relation to shifting school budgets."

Kimberly Dawn Vickrey
Teacher - Tech Staff, Depew Public School
Depew, OK

"I feel this funding supports the communication we have with our parents, staff, students, and community."

Kristi McBride, Parent, Teacher
Director of Instructional Technology, Instructional Materials Coordinator; Schulenburg ISD
Schulenburg, Texas

"Hello, A few years back our number one business burned to the ground. At least three quarters of the town worked there. When the town went through this rough time we relied on others in the community. The community is tapped out. We are hopeing our children will revive this town. That is why their education is so very important. We are learning that the new electronic era is upon us. That being said we need our Web. Now that so many families are all working and even some out side the area that they live in. Jobs are scarce, but so is money. Without the Web in the school most children will do without. The school needs your help and understanding. Thank You"

Miissa Dianne Debnar
Parent, Paraprofessional, Teachers Aide; Booneville Junior High School
Booneville, Arkansas

"We would not be able to afford to continue."

Charles Scott Hyatt
Teacher, Booneville High School
Booneville, Arkansas

"A decrease in Priority One E-rate funding would be a detriment to our school due to the fact that many of our students do not have access to computers or internet at their homes. Because of this, school is their first contact with this technology. In our world today many jobs demand experience with computers/internet, therefore crippling our students who will lack this skill. Please continue to allow our students access to this all important skill by future funding of Priority One E-rate. Thank You."

Esther Morgan
Parent, Justice
Wewoka, Oklahoma

"Priority one E-Rate funding is very beneficial to our school, with all other funding reductions, this would be very hurtful to our students education process."

Roy Lynn Kaler
Teacher, Dewar High School   I-8
Dewar, OK

"DO NOT TAKE Priority One E-rate funding support for our district and school websites from our schools!!!! We need this funding!!! This is getting ridiculous!!!! Keep this funding for our students, our staff, our parents, our administrators...it hurts a lot more than just students when this funding is taken from us. Think of the big picture and not just where cutting funding helps in other areas. Focus on what is important and that is our kiddo's futures!!!!!"

Tashina Lynette Rollins
Teacher, Justice Public School
Wewoka, Oklahoma

"I strongly support the continuation of this program. Budget cuts are already making things hard for administrators and educators, therefore school systems need any help we can get."

Karla Parks
Teacher, Calera
Calera, OK

"If funding is eliminated for web hosting it will be hard for our district to be able to maintain a web page. We use our web page for everything. It is easy to keep our community involved in what is taking place at the school. We are a small school so finances are tight some time. I would hate for us to have to lose personnel in order to pay for web hosting. Please consider allowing e-rate funding to continue for web page hosting and for our website."

Steven Roberso
 High School Admin. Asst. & Student Information System Admin, Boswell High School
Boswell, Oklahoma

"Being a small rural school system in Oklahoma, our we bsite is the chief form of communicating information to parents and community members. With shrinking budgets what they are, having web hosting funded by E-rate is a very cost effective way of providing information and no other effective means of sharing this information would exist for our school system."

Michael Broyles
Superintendent, Braggs Public Schools
Braggs, Oklahoma

"Being a smaller district we depend on funding to help us make it. Please don't take this away from us also.   It is so hard to stay up on everything we are to do mentally and financially. I really wonder sometimes why government and higher up people feel we can't do a good job in education in the USA. The answer.....Some have lost sight of what we need to be teaching."

Janice Sparks
Technology Coordinator, Cleveland County School District
Rison, Arkansas

"As with all schools, budget cuts have placed a great strain on the ability to fund education. 100 percent of my teaching involves the use of Internet to enhance my textbook and other resources. It is imperative that funding for Internet will help me be a better teacher and to enhance the education of my students."

Debbie Hagans
Social Science Instructor, U.S.D. 106. Western Plains
Ransom, Kansas

"Our district is primary a poor community with families who have great needs. One way that students are able to access the Internet is through out school district technology. Our budget is far too tight to not have additional funding for computers and adequate technology systems. Thank you for helping us help our students be prepared for the future."

Tom Sack
Elementary Principal, Atchison Public Schools USD 409
Atchison, KS

"Keeping this website would keep the cost down for this school district. Mailings and phone calls will cost more to the school than maintaining this website. Please keep our school district's website."

Amanda Wick
Parent, Western Plains USD 106
Ransom, Kansas

"If web hosting is not continually funded through Priority One E-rate funding, this will create a financial hardship on our district. The school website funded through E-rate is an inexpensive way for our staff members to communicate and effectively reach parents."

Matt Posey
Administrator, Oilton Public School
Oilton, Oklahoma

"If Web hosting services are eliminated from Priority One E-rate funding support for a school district's website beginning in the 2015 E-Rate Funding Year, our district will no longer have a district website. Due to constant cuts from the Oklahoma State Department of Education and the federal sequestration, many districts have eliminated everything that can be eliminated and still be able to provide excellent education services for our students. If we are forced to choose between spending money to host a website or providing a core academic program, we will choose the core academic program every time. Since I live in a high poverty area, I am comfortable in stating that we could have plenty Priority One and Two E-Rate funding for schools and libraries with the fees charged on everyone's telecommunications bills if our government would stop all these tents that are all around our area advertising "FREE CELL PHONES" for the poor. We have numerous students down to our pre-kindergarten grades who have their own "Free Government Cell Phones." I know of many families that have over a dozen of these so-called free phones. The problem is none of these phones are free because the people paying phone bills are paying for them along with schools and libraries losing funding to provide the service for "Free Government Cell Phones.""

Christopher Glen Bryan
Administrator, Justice Public School
Wewoka, Oklahoma

"The District and School web sites provide a valuable service to our overall educational program. In light of these economic times, it seems absolutely obvious that _any_ change in the finances of a school district would require that something be cut. We would hate to lose something as valuable as our web site."

David Chaffee
Technology Coordinator, USD #339 Jefferson County North Public Schools
Winchester, KS

"We are a small school with a large, low socio-economic population. Our school budgets are continually cut each year, yet we are expected to use ever-changing technology for our students to be prepared for the future. Your support is greatly needed. I would truly appreciate it if you could please continue Priority One E-rate funding support for our district and school websites."

Karen Halford
Library Media Specialist, Booneville Public Schools
Booneville, Arkansas

"I check the website several times per week. It is the best tool our school district has for communication with the community and parents."

Linda Carter
Parent, Elementary School Substitute, USD 106
Ransom, KS

"I think this would cause a hardship on our school district. Our school is already cutting back on jobs. We don't need anything else to be taken away from this school."

Amelia Ann Laws
Staff, Fordyce School District
Fordyce, Arkansas

"Without funding for Web resources, both my students and I would be significantly impacted for the worse. My students would not have access to materials I post on my teacher page, which is incredibly helpful when students miss long periods of school for one reason or another. The web page also allows parents to stay in the loop with what is going on in my class. Besides that, the webpage provides access to my online gradebook, email, and teaching resources that can be accessed remotely."

Victoria Herbert
Teacher, Idalou ISD
Idalou, Texas

"We live in a very rural area with limited access to technology. For most of our students, the only place they use computers and other technology is at school. If funding is reduced, this will limit opportunities for our students both in the present and in the future as they enter the workforce. Most of our families live in poverty, and internet access provides our student with a wider view of the world."

Elizabeth Corley
Teacher, Booneville School District
Booneville, Arkansas

"Please continue this help for us!!! We are a high poverty district and this will pose a hardship on our district therefore affecting our students!!"

Cynthia Barbette Smithson
Administrator, Booneville School District
Booneville, Arkansas

"We are a shrinking school district but spread over a large land area- the website helps bring us together. It has all of the latest students news/activities, grades, and teacher's webpages- it is the one place to check everything. I cannot imagine how we'd get along without it. In this digital age, a school website is crucial."

Lyn Bernbeck
Parent and Teacher, Western Plains USD 106
Ransom, KS

"We are just planning to use E-rate for our new website. It is essential that we have this funding to promote and share information about our school with our constituents. Please continue this funding. Schools are truly in such financial difficulty it is almost incomprehensible. Please help us keep this form of communication to our public!"

Linda Zeigler
Superintendent/Elementary Principal, Quinter Public Schools
Quinter, Kansas

"Our school district has really loved this website to help us improve our webpages and our school website! Our parents are able to get important information by just looking at our website. This has been so benificial for me to be able to send out reminders to parents and to post important information for my class on my webpage. The parents also love to look at the pictures that I take and put on there! Our school would not have been able to put funds toward technology like this because we have to use our funds on specific learning tools. I really you hope you will continue to help support the schools with this particular funding. It has been a very good way to reinforce the teacher/parent communication."

Tondya Renee' Bownds
Teacher, Idalou ISD
Idalou, Texas

"Our School is a 1 to 1 (iPad) school and is 60% low SES. Without this program, we will not be able to provide them with the tools and knowledge to prepare them for the world they will have to live and work in."

Forrest Junior Covey
Administrator, Atchison Public Schools
Atchison, KS

"Utilizing web-hosting has allowed our rural district the opportunity to communicate with parents easily and consistantly."

Dawn Hotubbee
Teacher, Booneville School District
Booneville, Arkansas

"Our district is financially challenged. We appreciate any and all help given. thank you very much!"

Edith Totty
Teacher, Fordyce Public Schools
Fordyce, Arkansas

"Personally I have been involved with finances at Vanoss Public Schools for the past 26 years. I have been the e-rate contact since the program began in the late 90's. Our school is out in the middle of the pasture and we have no township from which to seek extra revenue. We are dependent upon government funding to function. Just this year we have suffered an almost 2 million dollar deficit from just two years ago. At every junction we are being reduced or eliminated from government dollars. Again this year we were denied maintenance money from e-rate and as a result, our computer engineer was laid off by the company he had worked for almost 16 years. He visited once every 4-6 weeks to help keep our network running smoothly. This year we have limped along without his help and the condition of our network is less than adequate. Now we are being threatened with the loss of more money which helps to make possible web hosting. Our website is our primary outreach to the community now. On a recent survey more than 90% of our (families) homes responded that they 'check the website more than once weekly for pertinent school happenings. This number has more than doubled in the past four years. Three years ago we made a decision to 'go green' and be as paperless as possible. Very few paper notes are sent home (except in the lower elementary). Our webpage is a primary link to our community. Faculty, Parents and Students alike use the online grade-book, email, school calendar and much more to communicate. We simply cannot go backwards with technology, but without funding I fear that is indeed what will happen. Please do not eliminate web hosting and if possible please reinstate the maintenance money portion. We are suffering out here."

Beverly Rambo
Library-Media, Technology; Vanoss Public Schools
Ada, Oklahoma

"Because we live in a small town, we do not have a daily newspaper. Most of our parents and merchants rely on the school's website for up-to-date information regarding, school calendar, activities, sports, testing, and other essential information."

Caron C. Morris
Teacher, Fordyce Public Schools
Fordyce, AR

"My district would not be able to provide our students the technology needed for our educational needs without E-rate funding."

Judy Holleman
Administrator, Newton ISD
Newton, TX

"As a very small rural community in deep East Texas, we would be financially and technologically burdened without the use of erate monies. Also, since it is mandatory that we post letters and reports from the state, we find that our website is one of the best ways to economically communicate those with our families. If funding were eliminated, we would either lose our website or another program that we use. Thank you for taking the time to reconsider web hosting as Priority 1 erateable expenditure."

Cherie Weaver
Technology Director/Network Administrator, Carlisle ISD
Price, Texas

"With State Funding questionable at best, we desperately need E-Rate funding to stay in place at USD 247. We have experienced many years of declining enrollment and this year we were forced to close a Building. The District web sit is essential for the possible recruitment of new students, Without growth our District's survival is in jeopardy. Thank You, Jeff Burns"

Jeffrey G. Burns
BOE Member/ Parent, USD 247 Cherokee/Southeast
Cherokee, Kansas

"Our website serves as the hub for information for our parents and community. Being a low social economic area of the state, our web site is used to help bridge the gap between our students and the parents. We are trying hard to reach our parents and community to bring them into our school and to show the importance of an education. We must continue with this fight to help break the deadly grip of generational poverty."

Tony Thomas
Administrator, Salina Public Schools
Salina, Oklahoma

"Since schools in Kansas are required to post several financial documents, bullying policies and other such materials on our website, the loss of funding through the E-rate program would negatively effect our ability to swiftly comply with these mandates. Furthermore, our community relies on our website for the most up-to-date information on our school. The interconnectivity of our website with cell phone applications further enhances our ability to reach out to our patrons. Should we need to foot the cost of this on our own, the vendors we could afford would most likely not be able to provide this service. It is imperative that the FCC continue funding Web hosting through the E-rate program."

Ken Bockwinkel
Superintendent, Greeley County Schools USD 200
Tribune, Kansas

"Schools are underfunded in many areas and to take this away would mean monies would have to be taken from another fund which would mean less help for students."

Julia B. Haller
Teacher, Booneville School District
Booneville, Arkansas

"It is important that E-rate continue paying for web hosting. Schools are already strapped for cash and this would only increase their burdens. Our website is essential in keeping our parents up to date with school information and happenings."

Monica Partain
Parent, Technology Director; Calera Public School
Calera, OKlahoma

"I am a high school teacher. I put all of my assignments on the website for students who are absent, and so parents can keep up with the work being done in the class. With the recent bad weather and so many class days missed, I have started putting narrated powerpoints on my website. My students know to check the website regularly to keep up with the material. I teach two different subjects that have and end of year exam- PreAP Biology and AP Biology. In keeping with an emphasis on STEM and what I know is required in college, it is essential that my students integrate computer use into their curriculum. Rather than surfing the web, or using a site from one of the text book companies (which are expensive), my students utilize my website."

Rhonda Riggin
Teacher, Booneville
Booneville, AR

"Rural communities like ours, with fewer resources, depend solely on programs like e-rate to support academic programs. There is NO way to replace e-rate resources, districts simply do not have the funds. If you are concerned about an educated, future, workforce and career ready students, technology is simply becoming the sole focus in districts. Without the e-rate resources, we will not be able to keep pace with what society needs from schools. We cannot do the work of schools to support and educate students. We already know we leave in a global society, without the technologies for resources, this reduces our learning outreach and outcomes."

Janet Neufeld
Superintendent, USD #240
Bennington, KS

"Our district would find it as a great hardship if we could not use Erate funding for this service."

Lawrence V. Garcia
Technology Director, Beeville ISD
Beeville, Texas

"Funding websites is one way that schools can have equal abilities to communicate with parents and community members."

Linda Cross
Tech Coordinator, Jim Ned CISD
Tuscola, Texas

"Our school website provides invaluable resources to our community and teachers. It is a one-stop resource that helps us disseminate information to all of our parents and students. Without funding to off-set the cost of having web-hosting we would not be able to provide this resource and would otherwise lose touch with that part of our community."

Tyler Bridges
Superintendent, Pleasant Grove Public SChool
Shawnee, Oklahoma

"We are one of the poorest districts in the state serving a high poverty area. Our local tax options are maxed out. Our website is a primary connection with parents, students, and patrons. E-rate has enabled our website to achieve its level of importance. A loss in e-rate funding will reduce expenditures on students in other areas. Financial resources are extremely critical for us already."

Glenn Fortmayer
Superintendent, USD 247 Southeast
Cherokee, KS

"Erate funding saves our school approximately $1,000/year. It is essential that all erate funding remain in place."

Robert A. Schiltz
Administrator, USD 297 St. Francis Community Schools
St. Francis, KS

"Please continue to support this vital communications tool for education."

Linda Solomon
Technology Director, USD 247
Cheorkee, Kansas

"Currently we are moving to a web hosting environment for our Home Page. We feel that we can get a more robust product that will benefit our parents and patrons for about the same funding as we currently pay for the antiquated system we are currently using. We are able to communicate with our parents and community better with a web page that will allow use to easily make updates and changes to our information. With the current system, it takes one person who has been trained on the system to make all of the changes. We feel that with a web hosted system, we could have a person in each facility manage their own site and have increased communication in the community."

Thomas J. Alstrom
Administrator, USD 440 Halstead-Bentley
Halstead, Kansas

"We are small independent district. We are a Title I school."

Mandy Thackerson
Teacher, Idalou ISD
Idalou, TX

"A school website is a vital tool of communication between the school, parents and community. It is not just for show. Please help us keep this door of communication open by maintaining funding support for Web hosting as an essential part of E-rate funding."

Christi Blakemore
Teacher/Parent, Healdton Public Schools
Healdton, OK

"Cutting these funds would cause our website to be virtually nonexistent."

Tod Harrison
Administrator, Hugo Public Schools
Hugo, OK

"Priority One funding is critical to our district being able to afford our website. In today's day and age a website is expected from the public."

Susan Myers
Superintendent, USD 409 Atchison Public School
Atchison, KS

"As a member of the Fordyce School District Staff, I use the website information to get more information to my parents and students either through email or other means.   I also am the distance learning facilitator for the High School."

Celeste Hall
Staff, Fordyce High School
Fordyce, Arkansas

"In these times of shrinking budgets and increasing demands, continuing e-rate funding is essential. We are leveraging technology to provide two way communication with our stakeholders in a fast, efficient manner."

David Myers
Director of Special Education, USD 409 Atchison Public Schools
Atchison, Kansas

"Webhosting has become a significant part of our educational communication environment and continued E-Rate support will assist our school district in continuing our usage of these wonderful resources. With limited budgets for schools, nation-wide, it is very important to continue to enable all school districts, especially smaller school districts like ours, this ability. Without this support we will be forced to make some very bad decisions regarding what we can afford verses what we should be doing in providing a 21st century education to our students. Our website has been extremely important in improving our communication with our parents and we would hate to undo all of the progress we have made. Please continue to support Priority one funding of web hosting."

Paul Langford
Director of Technology, Parsons District Schools
Parsons, Kansas

"Our website is a major form of communication. We do not host locally and the priority one funding is essential to continue."

Donna Noll
Staff, Atchison Public Schools
Atchison, Kansas

"It is my opinion that anyone who would consider the elimination of Priority One E-rate funding for school websites has no idea of the just how valuable a resource this is to our school and community. The school website is critical to maintaining a strong lines of communication with our parents, students, and patrons. As the superintendent of a small rural school, I completely understand the need to save money and cut costs. But the reality is that the school website is an invaluable resource that needs your support. I appreciate your consideration of this request to SAVE our website funding. Thank you and have a great day."

Stephen Wisema
Superintendent of Schools, Atchison County USD 377
Effingham, KS

"Eliminating funding for web hosting would severely hurt my ability to communicate with parents about classroom and community events."

Chris Power
Teacher, Fordyce School District
Fordyce, Arkansas

"By being able to use web hosting LeFlore Public School can keep it parents, students and patrons better informed about the school, its policies and events at a lower cost. This allows the school to spend more money in the classrooms where it will be utilized better."

John Long
Administrator, LeFlore Public School
LeFlore, Oklahoma

"We are a very small school district in two different towns 30 miles apart. Having a school website helps tremendously with communication about different events going on in both places. It also allows us to communicate with the public that do not have children in school on how our students do in extra-curricular activities and up coming events that they might not be aware about. Some of the teachers also use it to post information about what is going on in their class room so their parents (along with others that go to the website) can read for themselves what is happening in our schools. Our school website is a very instrumental part of our district."

Nancy Jenner
Parent and Teacher, Western Plains School District
Ransom/Bazine, Kansas

"As a teacher at a small school in Western KS where funds are always tight, and as a main facilitator of our school's website, I cannot stress ENOUGH how important our school website is. It allows our public to stay informed and up-to-date on our district news. Without the website, it would make it extremely hard to reach certain areas of our constituency. Please do not eliminate funding for Web hosting from the Priority E-Rate."

Amy Flax
Teacher, Western Plains, USD 106
Ransom, KS

"Our school district depends heavily on communicating through our schools webpage. It would greatly affect our day to day operations."

Lauren Krasucky
Teacher, Needville ISD
Needville, TX

"We are a small school and have a hard time getting anything for our school as our county has a lot of students who fit the poverty level and keeping them interested in school is a challenge."

Deborah Horn
High School Secretary, Fort Towson Public School
Fort Towson, OK

"Without funding we will not be able to utilize this important resource."

Judy Walker
Teacher, Newton ISD
Newton, TX

"Without eRate funding to cover this expense we would have to drop this service."

James Seger
Midland School District
Pleasant Plains, Arkansas

"This is a great way of getting all our information out to anyone in our schools, our community, or other districts. We would surely miss our web page if it were to be discontinued. Please contuine to fund the E-rate program."

Gwen Satterwhite
Secretary to Superintendent, Newton ISD
Newton, Texas

"E-rate funding is essential for our school district. E-rate helps with the cost of web hosting and web hosting is one of the major avenues whereby we communicate with parents, staff and community."

Joni Miller
Staff, Newton Independent School District
Newton, Texas

"The elimination of Priority One E-rate funding that supports USD 284 Chase County's website would eliminate one of our school districts most cost-effective ways of communication with our students, parents and community members. The loss of this communication tool would not allow us to get information that our students, parents and community members in a timely matter."

Jeff Kohlman
Superintendent, USD 284 Chase County
Cottonwood Falls, Kansas

"We are a rural district with limited resources. Our website is our primary means of communicating events, important schedule changes, and our children's successes to parents. This also a valuable resource in passing along communication from the State Department of Education to our parents, students, and community members."

Shannon Browning
Technology Coordinator, Macomb
Macomb, OK

"Our school website is funding with Priority One funds to keep our website afloat!! We would like to continue this as it is our #1 means of communication to students, families, parents, public, etc...   Thanks, Dennis Gonzales"

Dennis Gonzales, Administrator
USD 214 - Ulysses
Ulysses, Kansas

"Our school website is a tremendous information vehicle to the parents and members of our community. Even in the age of social media where getting the word out is easy, the website is the first place most anyone associated with the school looks for information. Please do not take away the funding associated with providing this tool for our students and parents. Most of us "old school" people have lived without the information age as we have it now, and most of us would agree we don't want to go back the way it used to be. It's nice to be informed and keep up-to-date when our children are concerned. With the constant world of changes in technology, our website is also changing. We have the capability for parents to sign up for our mailing lists, we enter information and school activities on our school calendar, we can text students and parents if need be, and parents can check our Home page for the latest information about a school closing or late start. Smart phones, iPads, and other internet connections make our school website available to anyone and everyone involved in our school. Please do not do anything with the funding to jeopardize this vital part of our communication."

Susan Diane Magee
Administrator, Idalou ISD
Idalou, TX

"With the continuing cuts to public school funding in our state, our Internet site has become an even more important means of communication with student, parents and patrons. For many of our families, it provides access to information, procedures and contact with children's teachers that may not be available through other means."

Alan R. Cunningham
Superintendent of Schools, Dodge City Unified School District 443
Dodge City, Kansas

"Web hosting funding is imperative to schools today. We live in a small rural town and with the loss of manufacturing plants over the past few years, we have lost residents who have had to move out of town for jobs. Our school revenue has taken a hit and we work hard to make every dollar count to meet the needs of our students. To discontinue the E-funding support will have an adverse effect on many school districts. Please reconsider this."

Terrie Jo Farmer
District Treasurer, Booneville School District
Booneville, AR

"Web based communication is a very important in communicating school information to parents and the community. Small schools such as ours depend on Erate funding to aide in purchasing resources like Web-Hosting. Like most small rural schools, if we did not have Erate we would not be able to afford resources like a webpage. Please continue priority one Erate funding for Web-hosting."

John Ray
Technology Coordinator, Fordyce Public Schools
Fordyce, Arkansas

"With budgets getting tighter every year, it is difficult for us to maintain our current technology and meet the demands of what we are required to do for our students. Web sites play a vital role in communicating with our parents, students, staff and general public. Assistance in funding this source is a critical part of our ability to interact with the public. If funding were cut, we would either have to disband the site, or discontinue another important part of our services to students."

Randy Webb
Director of Technology, Malakoff ISD
Malakoff, Texas

"Please do not cut any funding. There is an ongoing systematic effort to destroy our nation's public schools. We need any and all funding, in full or even increased amounts, to wage the war on poverty and ignorance. Our district has been hit especially hard. A local Cargill meat plant burned a few years ago in our town of 4000, costing us almost 800 jobs. We have lost student enrollment and tried to absorb staff where we could. We can't afford to lose any more funds."

Mark Clemmons
7-12 Curriculum Coordinator, Booneville
Booneville, Arkansas

"Our district, like many, is experiencing financial difficulties. Budget cuts keep happening, for one reason or another.but we still owe our students a quality education. The elimination of this funding would put a great hardship on our district. Our school website is how we communicate with our students, parents and the community. It is a vital part of the education process. Please do not support the cut of the funding."

Anita Bonacci
Teacher, Fordyce School District
Fordyce, Arkansas

"In our world of digital information, teachers, students and parents rely heavily on media for all information. Since most of us have digital equipment, it is easy to stay abreast of information multiple times a day. The difference with paper notes is they rarely get home; the older the child the fewer notes that actually make it home. If you want parents to be informed, get them where they live, digital."

Ginger Elliott
Staff, Alpine ISD
Alpine, Texas

"To Whom It May Concern: Please keep funding for school websites a priority. This is a wonderful tool that our school would not be able to use if the funding was cut. Our school has a hard enough time keeping technology in the classroom. We have not received any additional technology funding in over three years. Our website helps to keep the communication open with our parents and community."

Deidre Britton
Teacher, Binger-Oney
Binger, OK

"Booneville is a rural school and we have lost most of our industry in the past few years. Our district is over 70% free and reduced lunches and any loss of funding will no doubt lessen our hope of being able to teach and take care of the student that have been put in our care. Thank you for your time and any help you can give us."

Tony Leonard Walker
Staff, Booneville School District
Booneville, Arkansas

"Rural school districts in Kansas have taken a big hit lately due to tax policies that place the primary burden on local citizens. Our school are hurting enough already. Removing priority I E-Rate funding for our website would cause us to lose our website completely. In time when we should be moving forward with technology, we would be forced to move backward."

Kenneth D. Bridges
Superintendent, USD #494
Syracuse, KS

"If we did not get erate we would not be able to afford it."

Connie S Richardson
Technology Director, Newton ISD
Kirbyville, TX

"We are already losing funding due to drop in enrollment. Our poverty rate is climbing as well."

Linda Abbott
Admin, Booneville Public Schools
Booneville, AR

"It is the BEST way to keep all family member s informed and updated on their childs progress"

Angela Hammond
Elementary School Secretary, Idalou ISD
Idalou, Texas

"We are a small school district in Oklahoma. We depend on the E-rate funding to help pay for our Web hosting as we could not afford to pay for it otherwise. It would definitely cause a hardship if it was not funded by E-rate anymore."

Kimberly Moore
Staff & Parent, Weleetka Public Schools
Weleetka, Oklahoma

"Our website has been extremely successful in communicating with our parents and community leaders. Parents can check it 24/7 to find out what assignments their child needs to complete, what is being covered that day in the classroom, to link to see their grades, to be aware of school activities, etc. Parents can directly get in contact with a teacher through the email link. I feel at the high school level this is the best source of communication that has worked effectively. I strongly urge you to continue supporting websites through the e-rate system."

Judy Kropp
Teacher/Librarian, Mena Public Schools
Mena, AR

"Schools that lose funding for web hosting will likely not be able to administer student participation with technology or at the least student participation with technology would be limited. As we all know, technology and internet access is what makes our world go round at this present time. If this funding is removed, our American students will fall behind students from other nations and thus insure that in the future, America will cease to be the world leader that it is presently. Please continue funding for Web hosting. Not only is it an important priority, it should be priority #1 for these funds."

Thomas Leon McLean
Teacher, Booneville Public Schools
Booneville, Arkansas

"We have a small district and would not be able to afford Web hosting without assistance."

Rachael May
Teacher, Booneville
Booneville, AR

"COCISD is a small, rural school district with a very limited budget. Our website is the face of the district and an essential tool in both community relations and employee recruitment. Parents, students and staff use the website as their main source to obtain information, forms and other invaluable resources 24 hours a day. In the event of an emergency, our district's website is the fastest way to communicate to the community what is going on and how to proceed if they have students in the district. It is the heartbeat of the district.   Cutting funds for this invaluable resource would be a giant step backward for small school districts like COCISD, districts that already struggle financially to keep up with today's technological demands. It is a certainty that without this funding, other important programs will be cut.   Help us move forward. Don't set us back by stripping such an important cog in the education wheel."

Cassie Gregory
HR/PR Coordinator, Coldspring-Oakhurst Consolidated ISD
Coldspring, TX

"Our website is a vital source of information for our students, staff, parents, and the community. If the funding is taken away, I don't know that we would be able to continue to have it."

Coylenna Bain
Teacher/Librarian, Fort Towson Public Schools
Fort Towson, Oklahoma

"I use our website in my class everyday! It is apart of my lessons and the students also use the website as well. They retrieve their handouts and other lesson material that is stored within our school website. It would be a financial burden on our district to not have help in purchasing this for our district."

Dana Herrington
Teacher, Idalou ISD
Idalou, Texas

"Using the school website to communicate is the fastest and most economical way to communicate with parents today."

Ross Ann Hill
Parent/Teacher, Idalou ISD
Idalou, Texas

"We live in the technological age and web access is an essential part of our student's academic success currently in a school setting as well as later in the school of life."

Reanna Jo Halle
Parent and Teacher, Booneville
Booneville, Arkansas

"In our small community, communication with our students and their parents is key to their involvement with our school district. Using a website is the most efficient way to do that to reach the masses. Please continue the funding."

Molly Lindsey
Teacher, Mena
Mena, AR

"We are a small school district K-8 that relies on Erate funding to help with the financial burden of remaining up to date in our technology in communicating with our parents and community. Without this funding our school district will have to take a step back in the communicating with parents, staff and community. It is imperative that this funding continue."

Dawna Watkins
Teacher, Justus Tiawah
Claremore, OK

"Using our webpage is the MOST IMPORTANT TOOL I have in parent communication. Parents can go on our website to see calendars, teacher assignments, grades, and "what's for lunch." Our district is really reliant on our webpage to get information out. Please continue to support this endeavor!"

Jeri Southern Bush
Administrator, Idalou ISD
Idalou, Texas

"We are a Title 1 school. Having the web site allows us to build community and deliver timely material. Relying on students to get information to and from school is not as reliable as having the school web site. It would be a financial hardship should we loose the funding for the school district's website. In all probability we would likely eliminate the web site."

Debra Ellen Hanus
7th & 8th Grade GT Teacher, District Coordinator, Beeville Independent School District
Beeville, Texas

"Websites are a vital part of letting our parents know what's happening at our school, if you remove funding from Priority 1, that could be jeopardized. Please keep it as a Priority 1 funding item."

Bill Wolff
Director of Information Technology, Kingston Public Schools
Kingston, Oklahoma

"Our web site not only provides parents, students and community members important information concerning our district activities, but it also includes teacher web pages too. Parents and students can access relevant informtion, homework, tutorials, etc, that are important to them."

Wayne Phillips
Technology Director, Harts Bluff ISD
Mount Pleasant, Texas

"The website is very much need in schools to help teachers."

Robert Thornton
Technology Coordinator, Idabel Public Schools
Idabel, Ok

"Our district website continues to be a vital method of communication, not only with parents, but with the community in general. Over the years, it has become more interactive with links to provide students, staff, parents and community members access to critical information and resources. A lot of "school business" is conducted via the district website and losing the funding support for this through E-Rate would be detrimental to our district and the community we serve."

Lisa Meysembour
Superintendent, Schulenburg ISD
Schulenburg, Texas

"We are a small rural district in Oklahoma, that without this funding we will not be about to have a school page, that keep the parents up to date."

Becky Burney
Teacher, Dewar
Dewar, OK

"Our school website is a vital resource for our staff, students, and parents. While the cost of our website is small in comparison with other services we provide it is the first public face that most people see when looking for information about our district. Budgets are tight and any decrease in funding through E-Rate would have detrimental effects on the services we can provide."

John Folmar
Technology Director, Westwood Independent School District
Palestine, TX

"E-Rate funding has become a critical part of our schools technology budget. In today's world, a school website is no longer a luxury item, but an expected form of communications for us to keep informed with the events happening within my children's classroom and extra-curricular activities. Prior to the website, we relied upon printed notes to be sent home from the school. Not only is this not a green option, but communications were very poor because rarely did papers make it out of my son's locker, much less to our home. If e-rate funding is lost for web hosting, I am concerned my school district will no longer be able to afford this effective communications tool. Please continue to fund web hosting."

Teddy Gabbart
Parent, Caddo Public Schools
Caddo, OK

"Our district and school websites are the number one source of information for our community, not only parents, but the broader community as well. Maintain a quality informational site for our families takes resources, which come from the same pot of money as the rest of our general education expenses. Without e-rate funding we would not be able to retain the quality site our customers have become accustomed to, as resources would need to be prioritized for expenses with direct student contact, even though we know that families who are informed about their child's school are better engaged, which in turn promotes student achievement."

Susan Brott
Director of Communications, Edina Public Schools
Edina, MN

"We are a middle class school district supported almost exclusively by our residential community. Our dollars are stretched as far as they can. Many unfunded state mandates have made running a school district an extraordinary challenge.Funding for web hosting is one way we can afford to maintain a site which plays a large role for our entire community."

Jane Greenspun
Administrator, Haverford
Havertown, PA

"We are a high poverty school that relies on technology for the daily management of our building. Our students were born in the digital era and we use technology to assist and support their learning."

Tricia Anderson
Administrator, Granger High School
Granger, Washington

"We have a lot of community members and parents that do use our website for many things, especially for finding out information about school activities, School Board information, parent/teacher/student information. We are not a very wealthy school district and with out help from e-rate, there is a lot of technology and infrastructure that we would not be able to have and/or maintain without this help. Please don't take it away."

Margarita C. Lope
Superintendent, Granger School District # 204
Granger, WA

"An effective, user friendly web site is a vital communication tool for schools to communicate with parents, students and community members. If the Web hosting service is removed from Priority One status, our school district will not be able to afford the level of service necessary to effectively communicate with our patrons."

Kent Brown
Technology Director, New Rockford - Sheyenne School District #2
New Rockford, ND

"Websites is the number 1 communication tool for school districts and their students and families. Do not eliminate it from E-rate funding."

Karst Brandsma
Administrator, Oak Harbor School District
Oak Harbor, WA

"We are a small, rural school district that relies on our website for disseminating information. eRate funding makes this option cost efficient. Thank you in advance for your consideration."

Nancy Snyder
Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Technology; West Perry School District
Elliotsburg, PA

"Website services are an essential means of communication with students, parents, and members of the community. It is important and appropriate for these services to be funded by the E-Rate program."

Gerald Crisci
Director of Technology, Scarsdale Public Schools
Scarsdale, New York

"If these changes are made, we will be forced to drop our website completely. We use family link, and e-mail directories and all kinds of tools on the website to reach out to the public. This would all be gone if this change is made."

Alex Thomas Singre
Information Technology Coordinator, Granger School District
Granger, Washington.

"If we are unable to use e-rate funding to purchase our website hosting service, due to District budget restrictions, we might not have the capability to pay for a service which many consider to be one of the top communication services we provide to our community."

Fernando Juarez
Staff, Santa Ana Unified School District
Santa Ana, CA

"E-rating funding for web hosting is essential resource for the Kent School District in order for us to have a effective and valuable communication with our students, parents, and community members. Our website is the only central location where students and parents can find educational resources off campus, monitor student progress, receive news and updates, and emergency alerts. The State of Washington has not adequately fund education for decades (McCleary v. State), which prohibits the District's ability to fund resources such as web hosting and many other technology tools for our students. It is vital for the FCC to provide funding to continue this resource for school district across the country so that our students (future leaders) can access the resources to help prepare them for this competitive global economy."

Jeff Thungc
Administrator, Kent School District
Kent, Washington

"We rely heavily on our website to communicate with parents and the community at large. We are a community of high poverty and defnitely need the e-Rate Priority 1 to continue assisting us in being able to afford web hosting fees. PLEASE do not remove this from Priority 1. Thank you"

Janet Wheaton
Administrator/Federal Programs Director, Granger School District
Granger, Washington

"Erate funding has allowed us to have a quality web presence that we would not be able to sustain without it. We are a small school with the same budget issues that every other school has. We don't have the staff or the funding to do the same job without the support of the erate funding. Please continue to support small school districts! Thank you."

Marcy Lamb
Technology Coordinator, Whitehall School District
Whitehall, Montana

"Unfunded mandates hurt schools. Communication with families is vital. The eRate funding that supports our website as a key communication tool is a fiscally responsible way for us to maintain quality relationships during this difficult financial times."

Tammy Andreyko
Assistant Superintendent, North Allegheny School District
Pittsburgh, PA

"Erate for web hosting helps our district save money so we can use it on students. Education funding has been slashed over the years making it difficult to sustain quality programs and learning environments. Please keep web hosting and other Erate services in tact or improve upon which will provide opportunities for our children and future leaders."

John Spiratos
District Administrator, Los Alamitos Unified School District
Los Alamitos, California

"We are implementing a Blended and full-time cyber academy for students in our district beginning in the 2014-15 school year. Web hosting is extremely important in providing opportunities to our students to ensure a successful cyber experience."

Wendy Anne Calarco
Director of Secondary Education, Berwick Area School District
Berwick, PA

"Loss of e-Rate funding for our website will require us to reduce other technology services we provide like access to online databases and fewer computers in classrooms which would directly impact our students learning. Our teachers also use our website to provide lesson materials, important dates and information to keep parents and students informed. Online learning has become an important tool in student education and our website is the portal to the content they need to find easily. Thank you!"

Mary Ann Beltz
District Technology Specialist, Central Bucks School District
Doylestown, PA

"In a district as large as ours, the public facing website is essential to convey a uniform message to all staff, parents, students and community members. District information, emergency situations, weather days, and other time-sensitive information is conveyed through our website and all our staff, parents and students know they can obtain up to the minute information through this one site. It is critical that we continue to provide this critical service to our staff, parents, students and community members."

Anne Howard
Technology Project Manager, Fort Bend ISD
Sugar Land, TX

"The District's website is an essential link to parents and students. Without this our communication would decrease."

Russell Parks
Administrator, Carman-Ainsworth Community Schools
Flint, Michigan

"E-rate funding for Web hosting is vital to school operations and communication with parents, students and staff. Please continue funding! Highlands School District is grateful for past assistance and encourages you to support this kind of funding for all schools."

Jennifer Goldberg
Communications Coordinator (and a district parent), Highlands School District
Natrona Heights, PA

"We are a small rural school district. Our student population is approximately 512. If we were to lose the ability to use E-rate to fund our district's website, we would most likely lose that website. We simply can't afford it otherwise. As it is, we are juggling budgets to afford teachers and necessary programs mandated by state and federal law.   Do not take away our ability to reach out to staff, administrators, students and parents via our website. It provides a vital communications service for our district."

Jaye Sudar
Board Member and President, Huerfano RE-1
Walsenburg, Colorado

"Webhosting is hugely important to the communication between districts and their stakeholders. This is the fastest, easiest, most cost-effective way to let the community know exactly what is going on at school. Without eRate support for this, many districts would have to go back to newsletters etc."

Victoria I Fisher
Administrator, Alief ISD
Houston, Texas

"As a district that has several degrees of piloting social media for communicative purposes, we still find that there is no better tool than our web site to provide in-depth, comprehensive information for parents, student and staff. I cannot foresee a day when our web presence would be acceptably diminished because of the value it holds for all our users."

Samuel Accorso
Adminsitrator for Technology, Van Buren Intermediate School District
Lawrence, Michigan

"Financial constraints are a constant concern in small districts like ours. Funding is critical to our success."

Donna Prater
Administrative Assistant/Webmaster, Brinnon School District
Brinnon, Washington

"Having Web hosting included as a Priority 1, initiated the district to look in to getting our website hosted, which allowed for us to bring to life our website and add more content and links even though we didn;t have the manpower."

Chris Casarez
Administrator for Operations, Mathis ISD
Mathis, Texas

"Not having this resource would be devastating to our instructional program. We rely on digital content more every day."

Nancy Duelley
Administrator, Brunswick City Schools
Brunswick, Ohio

"As a small school spread out over a large farmland district area, we rely on our website to provide information for our students and parents."

Christopher R Heck
Technology Director, Lakeview School District
Stoneboro, PA

"We are a small rural district in north central Montana. We have approximately 100 students at the school campus in Dutton, MT. We have a total of 55 students in three Hutterite Colonies remotely located from Dutton. The furthest Colony is located approximately 75 miles from Dutton. We have found that our communications with the colony teachers has been greatly enhanced by use of the School Website. Prior to our using E-Rate funding to purchase services for our website, it was extremely difficult to operate and maintain a school website based on the technical expertise that is available to us here at the school. With our school website we have been able to upgrade so that any community member may add our Application to their smart phone and thereby stay updated with the latest news and changes at the school. In a small rural community, the school is the center of activity, and as such, we provide a clearinghouse for community news as well. We don't have access to other communications that one might find in a larger urban area. Therefore we use our school website to disseminate community news in addition to school news and try to keep everyone in the community informed. It is essential that E-Rate funding continue to support Web hosting for this school district. Without E-Rate funding I feel confident that this school district would NOT be able to afford the Web hosting service that we now enjoy. Technology funding is limited and we are utilizing that funding to up grade our building to meet the requirements to do on-line standardized (Common-Core) testing. The result is that the district does not have sufficient funding to maintain our Website. In rural Montana, it is essential that we maintain our School Website."

David K. Brook
 Superintendent/7-12 Principal, Dutton/Brady School District #28C
Dutton, MT

"Our website plays a vital role in communicating with our students, parents, and community. Please don't underestimate the importance of proper funding for web hosting service."

Frank Phelps
Technology Director, Lake Chelan School District
Chelan, WA

"We have sustained cuts from every source of revenue. We have lost personal property taxes, dropped in assessed valuation impacting our tax collection, the loss of resources through the reduction of foundation (basic state aid) by sending it to community/charter school."

Patrick K. East
CFO – Administrator, Brunswick City School District
Brunswick, Ohio

"Our District, School and Teacher's classroom websites are one of the most important tools we use to assist in educating our students and communicate topics ranging anywhere from student/faculty news & achievements to tonight's homework assignment, in Ms. Smith's 3rd grade class, which is due tomorrow.   We use a sophisticated Content Management System in tandem with a robust Learning Management System that securely connects to our state's Student Information System. This system is extremely complex on the back end, yet is so simple for faculty/staff to use effectively.   This system helps us manage our district, school and classroom websites so that we can offer the media rich, real-time type of content our students and parents are accustomed to when visiting other types of online content.   The real value of our system is realized by the connection this tool makes between the teacher, parent and student. Our system uses an automated process that depends on the sophisticated connectivity between our CMS, LMS & SIS, to offer online content, personalized for the specific student, parent or community member visiting our website.   It would be cost prohibitive for this district to employ staff with the technical expertise to build and maintain the system we currently use. Likewise, our district would experience undue financial hardship, if it were to lose E-rate funding for this extremely important communication and learning tool."

Michael Martin
District Webmaster, Cabarrus County Schools
Concord, North Carolina

"To whom it concerns,   The value of our school website is almost immeasurable. As a private, Catholic School, we, probably more than others, rely on funding for our website through E-Rate. Without it, we probably wouldn't be able to afford to even have a school website. The website is a very valuable tool in communicating with parents and others of our community. It provides parents with the ability to check their child's grades and keep up to date with pertinent school news. In this day of a technology driven world wide community, this type of communication with parents, students, and others of our community is paramount and of great importance.   E-Rate funding is very very valuable to all those in education. When it comes to education, these types of programs should never meet the "chopping block!"   Thank you, Peter Banks."

Peter Banks, Teacher
Technology Director, Butte Central Catholic Schools
Butte, Montana

"There are several state requirements to post information on district websites such as test scores, teacher evaluation, and anti-bullying policy and forms. Our district functions with a tight budget trying to comply with unfunded mandates."

Joyce K. Newburg
Executive Secretary to the Superintendent, East Hanover Township School District
East Hanover, N. J.

"Our website is our #1 way of communication to the public/community."

Brian Bayachek
Director of IT, Watchung Hills Regional High School
Warren, NJ

"If we lost Priority One E-rate funding for our school district website, we would most likely have to discontinue our web hosting service. This would affect our community, as our website has become an informational beacon for parents, students, staff, faculty, and many more. It would be a shame to see the hard work that was done to rally support behind our web presence go for naught."

Edwin Malave
Systems Administrator, East Stroudsburg Area School District
East Stroudsburg, PA

"The truth is in the data. In our school district of just over 2,300, our District Website's front page has had over 15,700 views in the last 28 days. Electronic communication with parents and community members through our Website is vita to the education of our students. It allows parents easy access to student information, provides teachers with an easy-to-use and consistent platform for lesson plans and calendars, and allows students to interact safely and securely with classmates and staff. Our District's Website also coordinates our educational foundation and alumni association Web pages which brings additional dollars to our district through support of classroom grant programs and senior scholarships."

Kate Martin
Communications Director, Perry County School District 32
Perryville, Missouri

"For a rural county, our website has become a primary resource for our parents and community. We post information about school delays, closings, and other emergencies. In addition, we have created a parent website to share valuable resources with our families. Losing funding for our website could significantly impact our ability to communicate effectively with essential stakeholders in our community. With continued decreases in funding to schools, our school division has also had to decrease several publications that were previously mailed to homes. Our school district website helps us share this important information with our parents. Without funding for this, we would not be able to share this information effectively."

Jared A. Cotton
Division Superintendent, Henry County Public Schools
Henry County, Virginia

"We are a very small school district (77 students), and use the E-rate to help pay the bills."

Duane Reidenbach
Superintendent, Orchard Prairie School District No. 123
Spokane, WA

"Hello: Minerva Central School is a small rural school in upstate NY. We are a PreK-12th grade building with 125 students. Like many small schools our budget is extremely small and techynology funding is always tough. Our Internet conncection and website give our students a window to the world outside of our little town. Many of our students are essentially locked into their home area and are not able to travel so Internet access is vital to their seeing the world. We use our website to communicate on a regular basis. From classroom newsletters, to practice schedules and homework assignments. Special Events are listed in our calendar, School Board and Budget information are also posted. Please consider leaving E-Rate funding in place for web site hosting. Thank You"

Sharon Ston
 Librarian, Minerva Central School Disctrict
Olmstedville, New York

"Funding for charter school is always tight and this alone would cost us $1700. That would have a direct impact on programming for our students many of whom come from impoverished families."

Jon F. Mellott
Administrator, Western New York Maritime Charter School
Buffalo, New York

"In Buffalo, NY, every penny counts and if we lose this funding I cannot see how we could afford to keep our Web site up and running."

Tracz Daniel
WNYMCS
Buffalo, NY

"We are a small town and district, without e-rate we would not be able to afford a website. It is a valuable tool to let parents and staff know about the district and things going on."

Merritt Trowbridge
Director of IT, Central Curry School District
Gold Beach, Oregon

"This is highly beneficial to our small school who scraps together funds to make our internet access and web page hosting work each year. Taking this from us would be like cutting off our hands we would have to cut back on what we are able to communicate with our parents, staff and community."

Charlene Marie Wasson
Technology Director/Teacher, Whitewater School District 20D
Whitewater, Montana

"Please consider the adverse affects of discontinuing E-rate funds for web hosting. This support directly gives our students, parents and staff the opportunity to collectively interact as a close-knit blended learning community without the logistical restraints of brick and mortar. The public exposure provided by our hosting fuels the events and programs that maintain forward progress which ultimately affect our students' educational experience. Your continued support for E-rate funding for web hosting plays a vital role in our goal to be one of the best private schools in Cincinnati."

Joe Middleton
IT Administrator, Forest Hills
Cincinnati, OH

"If this is eliminated it would mean a significant financial loss to our district."

Kathleen Verhest
Technology Director, Brunswick City School
Brunswick, OH

"Our school board understands the need to effectively and efficiently communicate with our district residents and parents. The use of our district website as a tool to accomplish that communication is crucial; however, if the funding is eliminated for web hosting, we would have to consider alternative options for communication."

Lisa M. Vergin
Assistant Director of Information Technology, School District of New Richmond
New Richmond, Wisconsin

"Website access is critical for our Students/Parents/Staff. We use features in our Application for emergency purposes, and a TON more. Taking this funding away would put a tremendous burden on the district to obtain funding to keep it up and moving forward."

Kathy Christie
Administrator, Neshaminy School District
Langhorne, PA

"Our website is a critical tool in communicating with parents. The website is no longer a luxury, it's a necessity -- a basic utility for school systems. Not only is it a critical link to parents and community members, but it also helps us save local, state and federal tax dollars by reducing our expenditures on print."

Matthew Cummings
Administrator, Erie School District
Erie, PA

"If funding is cut for web hosting, we would have a difficult time maintaining a district website which shares vital information to students, staff, parents and community members. Please do not cut funding for web hosting. Thank you for your consideration."

Brady Hess
Technology Director, Benton Area School District
Benton, PA

"E-rate funding of web hosted services is essential to the success of communicating with parents and students. Elimination of this funding practice would also dramatically increase our internal costs for technical infrastructure and support staff that far exceeds the cost of third-party web hosting."

Mark Sherwood
Administrator - Director of Marketing, Duval County Public Schools
Jacksonville, Florida

"Please continue Priority One E-Rate Funding four our District and School Website."

Susan M Harder
Administrative Assistant/School Board Secretary, Bensalem Township School District
Bensalem, PA

"Many of our parents and community members check our school district's website for critical and updated information as their first choice in receiving communications from us. It is a quick and convenient way for them to stay updated on important events like school closures due to inclement weather, Board of Education agendas and meeting results, calendars of school events, etc.   Without the generous funding from the FCC, it is likely this method of communication would be reduced or eliminated entirely as demanded by the lack of funding. It is my best hope the FCC continues to fund web hosting for eligible schools and libraries."

Joe Ronnenberg
Technology Director, Weld County School District 6
Greeley, Colorado

"Please do not eliminate funding. Our School District Budget cannot support any added costs and this is an invaluable service to our community."

Robert J. Cardillo
Director of Human Resources, Bensalem School District
Bensalem, PA

"Plainville SD is a small school district of 800 students. By eliminating e-rate funding for web hosting services, it would cause a tremendous burden on our operating budget which may result in cutting our communication services to our parents. Maintaining effective sources of communication with parents which substantially reflects the educational activities and progress of students are vital to our school district especially in the digital age. Please reconsider keeping web hosting funding on the priority one services. Thank you."

Stephanie Cheong
Administrator, Plainville Schools
Plainville, MA

"Schools need this, especially LAUSD, one of the largest Unified School District in the Nation."

Irene Tan
Administrator, Los Angeles Unified School District
Los Angeles, California

"Schools need this."

Irene Tan
Administrator, West Contra Costa Unified School District
Richmond, California

"We are a very small school and we cannot afford much especially due to the funding getting cut."

Alexandra Hernandez
Administrator, Pateros School District
Pateros, WA

"Schoolwires costs about $30,000 a year and losing it would cost that much to the general fund. If the general fund could not support it, then the Bensalem community will lose a valuable communication resource for educational activities and emergency notifications."

Susan Phy
Staff, Bensalem Township School District
Bensalem, Pennsylvania

"Having a presence on the web is so important for our community, the more correct information our local population has the more the can appreciate what we do and how we do it....."

William Haley
Technology Director, Pateros School District
Pateros, Washington

"Web hosting is not free, nor is the ineligible content management systems. For schools to be able to communicate with parents and community, we have to provide each teacher a page in a template form to be able to provide professional designed experiences for parents, students, and the community. Most teachers simply do not have the time to spend developing web pages form scratch because of all the demands on their time, so a structured, easy to use web site is essential. To assist in the cost of this is extremely important to school districts in the education of our students. Small poor districts do not have the funding or manpower to train teachers to develop web pages on "free" sites that do not provide structure. The end result is that districts such as mine would go back to the type of web site we had 10-12 years ago, with little teacher or classroom information other than a director of staff. We need to move forward with what we are doing, not backward. CONTINUE TO PROVIDE WEB HOSTING as priority 1 funding! Wally Meggs"

Wallace N. Meggs, Jr.
Director of Technology, Laurens County School District 55
Laurens, South Carolina

"This is redic. You people need to leave this service e-rateable. Not everyone can specialize in creating websites, etc."

Michael John Walter
IT Director, Southern Huntingdon County School District
Three Springs, PA

"Our school district is looking at upgrading our website to increase communication with parents. Without E-rate funding, we will be unable to accomplish our goals of having uniform websites for each of our schools with interactive features such as Q&A, email, calendars, etc. We would appreciate the FCC continuing to support E-rate funding which is critical for rural school districts such as ours."

Chris James
Fiscal Manager, Cassia Jt. School District #151
Burley, Idaho

"E-Rate funding makes it possible for a school district with as many schools as we have to have a quality website that provides families with convenient access to important district information. Without this funding, I am not sure that, as a district, we could afford to have a web presence, this would take away a huge communication tool that is valued by stakeholders."

Melissa Burda
Communications Coordinator, Evanston/Skokie School District 65
Evanston, Illinois

"Due to the financial stress that we are under from lack of funding, failure to fund Web Hosting will cause us to terminate the current services that we have. I would encourage that Web Hosting be continued as an eligible erate service."

Rodney Lind
Network Administrator, Cassia Joint School District #151
Burley, Idaho

"I work with 7 school districts and assist them in filing for erate on their various telecommunications expenses. I am not a consultant but provide this service because these districts belong to our education district. Web hosting is a necessary item for schools to keep students and parents alike informed about everything happening in their district, to provide teacher pages with assignments, communication between parents and teachers, etc. Web hosting is a very necessary item and is expensive. I would hate to see it removed from the Priority 1 list. It is a much needed service for districts."

Mary Brown
Administrative Assistant, Minnesota River Valley Education District
Montevideo, MN

"This help provides community contact without additional burden to the tax payers."

Eines Cannizzo
E-Rate Coorinator, Tech Assistant, Mansfield Township School District
Columbus, New Jersey

"Web hosting is crutial as it helps even the playing field amongst school districts for open lines of communication to parents."

Lynette Meyer
Administrator, Fort Bend ISD
Surgar Land, TX

"Due to large budget cyts, we have already needed to eliminate art, music , and library programs from the elementary schools, and many of our sport programs at the middle and high school levels."

Gregory Heidemann
Principal and Parent, Valley Central School District
Montgomery, New York

"Without our erate for web hosting, we would be unable to afford to maintain our contract with our website host. That website is a vital part of the district's communication with parents and students."

Arianne Waddington
Systems Administrator,Williamsburg Community School Distrct
Williamsburg, Pennsylvania

"We are already under stress with the cost of social media and websites for up to date communication with our constituents. We do not have industry level salaries for marketing so we desperately need E-rate funding to assist with websites."

Valerie Pitts
Administrator, Larkspur-Corte Madera School District
Larkspur, CA

"Our web page is a very important tool we use to stay in contact with our parents and other community members. Without erate support we would be very hard pressed to continue with our current web page."

Joel Anderson
Technology Coordinator; School Director; Onion Creek School District
Colville, WA

"Please support public education! We already fund raise to have a Literacy Specialist, Music, Art and PE for our students. With almost 50% of our students on free and reduced lunch, there is a limit to the level of fundraising that we can do. Without effective school websites, the quality of communication, parent participation and student performance could be negatively impacted. Please continue to support a quality public education. Thank you."

Susan A Newmeyer
Parent and President, Willow Creek Foundation; Sausalito Marin City School District
Sausalito, California

"Our Community is located in a rural area, 100 miles from a city of any size. We do not have a television station or radio station and the only local newspaper comes out once a week. Even our postal delivery is delayed in that mail must be shipped by car the 100 miles to the nearest sorting facility and then shipped back by car to the local post office. Thus it most often takes 2 or 3 days to get information delivered locally by the postal service. To say that our District website is simply needed would be a huge understatement, it is critical as it is the only form of nearly up to the minute information the community has."

Diane Hedahl
Parent, Staff, Taxpayer; Thompson Falls School District #2
Thompson Falls, MT

"E-Rate funding is incredibly assistive in ensuring that our students have continued access to technology, which includes webhosting. Our district is currently upgrading our webhosting services to bring our website into the 21st century. No longer is our website just a basic set of information about our district and schools, it is now becoming a needed tool for employees, parents, students, and community. It is a teaching resource which provides access to teachers for common plans and staff development. It is a resource for parents to connect to the common core state standards and how to help their students succeed in our modern world. Without ERATE priority 1 funding continuing for webhosting services, it may become cost prohibitive to continue providing these resources on our own site."

Dr. Michelle Richardson
Assistant Superintendent Business & Operations, Travis Unified School District
Fairfield, CA

"In this day and age, it is critical that districts have the ability to host websites for our teachers to utilize to keep their classes current, communicate with parents and students. Our students and families depend on our teachers providing not only pertinent information, but also resources and materials on their website. This is NOT the time to pull any Priority One E-rate funding as many districts are struggling in so many ways and this is the only way they can communicate with families in the 21st century! It's not a luxury, it is a critical necessity!"

Anna Lazzarini
Administrator, Mill Valley School District
Mill Valley, CA

"If it weren't for services such as e-rate, small districts like mine would never be able to afford the technology upgrades needed to get our students and school prepared for 21st century learning. Webhosting is essential for us providing faculty, students and parents much needed and organized online resources in order to meet the needs of our children."

Gregorio Maceri
Administrator, South Hackensack
South Hackensack, New Jersey

"Web hosting is a vital service and needs to remain part of Priority One Internet Access funding. We simply cannot operate without this service. It is one of the most important reasons for us to have Internet Access, and would certainly create a financial hardship for us if funding for this service was discontinued."

Bryan Cofer
Director of Technology, Cannon County School District
Woodbury, TN

"This would practically double our cost for web hosting. NJ has a 2% budget CAP, reduced state funding and some of the highest taxes in the country. We can't afford substantial changes to our budget."

Mark Horst
Tech Supervisor, Little Ferry Public Schools
Little Ferry, NJ

"Our district needs all e-rate eligible items to remain. Public school funding is simply too tight, particularly in the area of technology."

Michael Ballard
Administrator, New Richmond School District
New Richmond, WI

"This is a perfectly opportune time to write this. In the middle of the budget process and with all of the inclement weather emergencies this season the school website has been the turn to location for communicating with the community, students and staff."

Frank J Domin, Jr.
School Business Administrator, Berlin Borough and Gibbsboro School Districts
Berlin, New Jersey

"I think of the cost of paper we would have had to use if not for the great communication tool our website is. We are running on a shoestring budget now, I just don't know how we will be able to fit the cost of our website into our already financially stressed budget."

Lynn Briley
Upper Moreland School District
Willow Grove, PA

"Having a district website is integral and essential to communicate with parents and the community. Additionally, using our website is a valuable resource for parents seeking information about the school, the students and the community."

Leslie Copleston
Administrator, Coxsackie-Athens CSD
Coxsackie, New York

"Two comments to add: 1. As a communication tool, our current web solution functions as a massively efficient tool for connecting parents, students and staff. Our entire community has come to expect that hundreds of different types of communication are immediately available on our website and through "push" communications, which has had far-reaching, direct benefits to student instruction. Altering or removing this as a result of cut-backs would significantly impact our ability to maintain this "triangle" of effective communication. 2. We have been able to leverage our teacher web pages as a direct tool for instruction, not only by making digital resources available to parents and students, but also by providing safe, interactive learning tools such as blogs and wikis available. We have calculated that during the 2012-13 school year alone, we were able to extend the instruction of our students by 42 days simply by involving them in web-based learning activities and interactions (outside the classroom!). Adding 42 instructional days as just a piece of the cost of our web services is having benefits for all our students' instruction and assessment scores. Eliminating this avenue for extended instruction will have immediate and long-term consequences for our students' ability to learn and utilize 21st century tools for learning."

Peter Barron
Internet Services Manager, Rio Rancho Public Schools
Rio Rancho, New Mexico

"If it weren't for the communication piece we would have little need for the website. It is a tremendously valuable communication tool and Erate is desperately needed by school districts. Chris"

Christopher Mohr
Director of Technology, Valley Central School District
Montgomery, New York

"Over the last 3 years, Priority 1 funding for Web Hosting has provide this district with a website presentable to the public.Without it, the "face" of the district and the ability to provide important information to our parents will be severed."

Mandy Clayton
Administrator, Greenville ISD
Greenville, TX

"Our district website is an integral part of our parent communications network. It is also embedded in the crisis plan for every school. In these situations it is crucial that our website be functional. As with most school districts our finances are extremely tight. Now we are able to e-rate 80% of the cost of the hosting for our website. Should this not be covered by e-rate any longer, we would have to use money that is earmarked for instructional resources. The quality of instruction we provide our students would be compromised."

Jane Driver
Tech Coordinator, Country Club Hills School District 160
Country Club Hills, Illinois

"We are a rural school district and we do not have a public library or local newspaper for communication to our patrons. It is crucial that we utilize the internet to communicate with parents, provide access to students for checking grades, and teachers can post assignments. If we are to implement the 21st century learning standards in our classroom we must be able to show our community what those skills are. Without this tool for communication it would be difficult for us to reach our constituency."

Lori Wells
Technology Director, North Marion School District
Aurora, OR

"We have done our own web hosting for some time. A teacher, on the weekends has done the best she can. She has been fantastic. However, because she runs our robotics club, teaches programming and math in our small rural school in eastern Washington, we cannot do sophisticated things like notifications, web-based assessments, mass notifications, and other integrated service. We don't have the expertise. We were planning on upgrading our image with help from a web hosting service. If we cannot have support from E-Rate, we will not be able to afford better, more comprehensive services. Comparatively, our web presence is poor when looking at nearby, bigger school that can afford a person to do this work. Thank you!"

Thaynan Knowlton
School Superintendent, Kettle Falls School District
Kettle Falls, Washington

"States have put the onus of communication on schools, we need to continue to fund the schools' efforts to comply with this directive."

Heather Puckett
Teacher, Sheridan Public School District #5
Sheridan, Montana

"The continuation of erate support for web hosting is critical for our district. Without support of erate it will be difficult for our district to budget these costs. Sincerely, Jean Bengfort"

Jean Bengfort
Director of Technology, Coeur d' Alene
Coeur d' Alene, Idaho

"It is essential that our district continue to have access to the e-rate program for web server hosting. As a military community, forty percent of our families are affiliated with the Navy. For some of these parents and guardians, access to and reliability of quality websites is critical to keeping them informed about their child's activities, grades and progress. This is in addition to the obvious benefits the websites provide to all families including access to assignments, homework, learning opportunities, scholarships and student report cards. Without the reduction in costs provided by the e-rate discount, costs related to operating web server hosting would increase substantially, forcing our district to utilize precious funding from other needed student programs and services. We urge you to strongly support the continuation of the e-rate program for web server hosting. Sincerely, Kellie Tormey Communications Coordinator Oak Harbor Public Schools Oak Harbor, Washington, 98277"

Kellie Tormey
Communications Director, Oak Harbor Public Schools
Oak Harbor, Washington

"Without continued web hosting support our school as well as most of the schools around the country will go dark. Creating a digital divide within our education system will hinder our digital future in this country."

James Davidson
IT Administrator, Curlew School
Curlew, Washington

"As someone who takes care of our school website, I know for a fact that the parents of our students visit our website quite often to check - what events are happening with the various schools - the parents frequently check the childrens teachers lesson plans- people look for contact information for staff, teachers, administrator, etc.- parents use the site for accessing their childrens grades so they can keep abreast of their progress - parents can also see things ranging from school lunch menus to announcements for various events and any alerts that may be issued. Such as "buses being canceled due to weather or road conditions. These are just a few of the major uses of any schools website."

Kenneth S. Stenne
 IT Administrator, Sidney Public Schools
Sidney, Montana

"With the elimination of e-rate for web hosting services, web communications may not be possible for many k-12 school districts. The ability to effectively communicate vital information may not be possible. Individual hosting of websites requires staff and equipment that are expensive. Most district are operating on a very limited amount of funds for technology to keep resources in the classroom. Please don't make us choose!"

Sher;yl Sheatzley
Administrator – Communications, Hudson City Schools
Hudson, Ohio

"Our district would not be able to offer an effective website that communicates so well with parents and the community without the support of E-rate."

Dr. Jacob Francom
Superintendent, Troy Public Schools
Troy, Montana

"Websites are an essential communication tool in today's world and should be considered as being part of the "package" of essential services."

June Gladney
Administrator, Los Alamos Public Schools
Los Alamos, New Mexico

"Heath City Schools purchases Web hosting services that receive Erate funding. We use the Web hosting service to disseminate information to our students, parents and community members. It provides a portal to information and, in particular, forms for gathering information important to the district in performing operations and providing services to our constituents which saves both parties time and money. Without it as a resource, it would hinder the flow of information between the parties and cause a reduction in communication. With the amount of investment we have made in this avenue of communication, both in financial and human resources, we would inherit a great a loss if it were no longer supported by the Erate program."

Michele Berry
District Technology Coordinator, Heath City Schools
Heath, MO

"Website communication is a critical means of communication between our schools' and community. Please continue to fund web hosting."

Jody Maffetone
Technology Director, Calhoun City Schools
Calhoun, GA

"It would be a huge financial hardship on our district if e-rate were to be eliminated as connected to SchoolWires/websites. Our website is a critical component in our efforts to connect with our students' parents/guardians and our greater community. Without e-rate, the process will be come cost prohibitive and we will not be able to provide the current level of transparency and service needed within our district and community."

Joseph L. Ricca, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools, Elmsford Union Free School District
Elmsford, New York

"Our web presence is an essential and cost-effective way of communicating with all of our audiences, including parents and the broader community members.   Because web hosting services were available for E-rate funding, we spent significant time, energy and resources to convert our meager web presence two years ago to a very robust web presence.   We have invested significant amounts of time, energy and money into effectively employing this mission-critical communication tool for not only our district but for our teachers, too, more than 800 of them. Our website is translatable into multiple languages which is even more critical given the demographics of our district.   Teachers post class schedules, study guides, grades, homework, etc. on their sites for families. The sites are part of our strategic plan for 24/7 access by parents and students.   We need our website. Though I cannot say eliminating E-rate funding will mean we won't have our existing website, I can say other programs will suffer if we have to pay for web-hosting without the E-rate subsidy."

Vicki Alonzo
Public Information Officer, Auburn School Disrict #408
Auburn, Washington

"If eRate eliminated website hosting, the size of the district doesn't matter, the results would be horrific for all. We have already seen budgets dwindle in size over the years and asked to do more with less thousands of times over, what more do you want from us. Do the right things here FCC!!!"

Erick Steelman
Administrator, Whittier Union High School Distrct
Whittier, CA

"E-rate funding for Web hosting is essential for us to have a quality Web site. Parents use our site to communicate with their children's teachers, to check homework assignments and project due dates (among other things). We have seen a tremendous boost in parent involvement as a result of our Web site. Our site is one of our most essential communications tools, and parents and teachers have come to rely on it as a source of information, at both the school and district levels. E-rate funding for Web hosting ensures that we have a Website that functions properly and has the capacity to handle a lot of traffic in times of crisis. We simply do not have the resources to build a similar site on our own, and we rely on our Web hosting company (School Wires) to provide a quality product, tech support and training."

Sandi Beason
PIO, School District Webmaster (and a parent); Clinton Public School District
Clinton, Mississippi

"A website provides a centralized location for essential resources for staff and students. Our school district and some current campuses with websites will be negatively affected if forced to pickup the full cost of owning a webpage. Our school sites will most likely have to shutdown their pages and students, parents and staff will be unable to follow current events on their campuses."

Isyair Ramirez
Staff, Mountain View School District
El Monte, California

"Clear and effective communication to all stakeholders is critical for schools. Websites are a key piece of the solution for school districts. Support for these services is essential. Thank you for your support."

Bill Simpson
Executive Director, Technology; San Marcos Unified School District
San Marcos, California

"With the limited staff and funding available to school districts, web hosting is a cost effective solution to having a web presence. (something necessary in today's world). Limited staff prevents us from doing great things on our own. The web hosting solution is easy to use, has a professional feel for a little effort and is cost effective (with e-rate)."

Jodi Hibbard
Administrator/Technology, Greenville Area School District
Greenville, PA

"E-Rate funding helps our small rural school afford web-hosting that we otherwise would not be able to afford. Without E-Rate we would not be able to have website and would lose a vital part of our parent and stakeholder communications. Please do not cut E-Rate funding it is important to schools when budgets are already tight due to other governmental demand and budget cuts that affect education."

Theresa Lightfoot
Teacher, Web Administrator, ECHO Charter School
Echo, Minnesota

"Almost the most necessary part of every school, as a tool to communicate with parents and community. Can't do without it! Bad time to drop funding for this, in this technical age!"

Wendy Smith
IT Help Desk, Medicine Lake Public School
Medicine Lake, Montana

"Our budget would be impacted negatively if funding for web hosting is eliminated. School funding has been handicapped in so many ways in recent years, this would be one more blow to the instruction for the State of Indiana children."

Amy Milner
Corporation Treasurer, South Henry School Corporation
Straughn, Indiana

"Our website is a critical communication link with our parents. We do not have specialty staff that could create and maintain a site like the one we can purchase with the E-Rate funding program. Web hosting needs to stay as a priority 1 allowed expense in order for us to continue this valuable service.   I addition many schools, ours included, will NEVER qualify for any other level of funding from the Erate program because our participation rate in the Free and Reduced lunch program will not reach the levels that are required for "internal connections"."

Mark B McMurra
 Principal, Frenchtown School District
Frenchtown, MT

"Our district relies on hosted webs services to provide critical information about our schools and district to our general public and community. Both Web sites and social media go hand in hand to work together and without websites there isn't a means to provide all the necessary information about a school or a district. Just like businesses or the government we depend on information that we have to share to be available to the people we serve. This not only makes us efficient but, it also helps reduce paper work and redundancy. Please continue to allow P1 services for Web hosting to our schools.   Thank you,"

Tom Perrymon
Technology Director, Tuscaloosa County
Tuscaloosa, AL

"Our school district encompasses all of Beaverhead County in Montana which is Montana's largest county. Since we are a rural, agricultural supported school district, it is essential to have information on our website to engage all the families of our students whether they live in the town of Dillon or in one of the rural towns which are feeders to our high school district."

Fred Chouinard
Superintendent, Beaverhead County High School
Dillon, Montana

"Without this service it is very unlikely that our small district would be able to afford a website. The website service we use now has greatly increased communication between school and community. In addition, it is used in daily lesson plans by many of our teachers. Not having that would be devastating to our students, parents, teachers, administrators and community."

Kathy Brown
Network Administrator, Lake Station Community Schools
Lake Station, Indiana

"E-rate funding assists the schools deliver technology to students, parents, and community members through the use of the school website. If the funding is eliminated the schools will need to cut back on other Technology budget items."

Liza M. Hazzard
Technology Department Employee, Avon Community School Corporation
Avon, IN

"A user friendly, robust, hosting platform with security for Intranet and flexibility for teachers is a necessity to communicate with parents and students effectively. Free solutions don't measure up to paid for products."

Jeff Lariscy
Administrator, Effingham County School District
Springfield, Georgia